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# Exploring Innovative School Models in the Canopy Project's Interactive National Database

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March 10, 2021





# Welcome

- **Introduce yourselves.**
  - Share who you are, your role/organization, and where you are located.
- **Ask and answer questions.**
  - Use the chat to ask questions and add comments. All participants are encouraged to respond.
  - We will leave time for our panelists to answer questions.
- **Share your learning.**
  - Tell your colleagues what you are learning on Twitter and mention @Aurora\_Inst.
- **We are recording and archiving the webinar.**
  - The slides and video will be available on [aurora-institute.org](https://aurora-institute.org).

# Exploring Innovative School Models

in the Canopy Project's  
interactive national database

- **Chelsea Waite**, Christensen Institute | [@chelseawaite](#)
- **Youssef Shoukry**, Transcend | [@TranscendBuilds](#)
- **Mebane Rash**, EducationNC | [@mebane\\_rash](#)
- **Dr. Angie Mullennix**, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction | [@DocAngMullennix](#)



Courtesy of Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action

Knowledge about K-12 school innovation often gets trapped in a word-of-mouth echo chamber.







Siloed information about school innovation creates missed opportunities at many levels.



The Canopy project captures  
both the “trees”—individual  
schools—and the whole  
“forest” of schools that are  
innovating.



#CanopyProject  
@Aurora\_Inst

# By the numbers

121

Nominators  
have shared  
schools on  
their radars

483

Unique  
schools  
nominated

222

Schools with  
recent data



# 'Tags' indicate the innovative practices schools are implementing





# Canopy Team & Advisors

Core Canopy team:

- Chelsea Waite - Christensen Institute
- David Nitkin and Youssef Shoukry - Transcend
- Angie Martinez and Gregor Thomas - Project Evident



Kimberly Smith,  
Digital Promise



Caroline Hill, 228  
Accelerator



Lesley Brown  
Rawlings, Beloved  
Community



Stephen Pham, The  
Learning Accelerator



Deborah Good, Future  
Focused Education



Eliot Levine, Aurora  
Institute



Betheny Gross,  
CRPE



Rebecca Wolfe,  
KnowledgeWorks



Temple Lovelace,  
Duquesne University

# Searching for “trees” (i.e. innovative schools) in North Carolina



North Carolina Pine

Using  
canopyschools.org  
to filter for  
innovative schools  
in North Carolina

The image shows a screenshot of the canopyschools.org website with the FILTERS pane open. The filters are organized into several sections:

- LOCATION**
  - State**: A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of states with checkboxes. North Carolina is selected with a checkmark. Other visible states include Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio.
  - Locale**: A dropdown menu set to "All".
- SCHOOL TYPE**
  - Size**: A dropdown menu set to "All".
- SURVEY DATA**
  - Core Practices**: A dropdown menu set to "All".
  - g Org**: A dropdown menu set to "All".
  - All Listed Practices**: A dropdown menu set to "All".
- DEMOGRAPHICS**
  - Black**: A range slider from 0% to 98%.
  - Hispanic**: A range slider from 0% to 97%.
  - White**: A range slider from 0% to 98%.
  - FRL**: A range slider from 2% to 100%.

At the top of the filter pane, there are buttons for "Close Filter Pane" and "Clear All Filters". A red banner at the bottom lists various educational models: Digital Learning Institute, The Friday Institute, Blended Learning, Student Advisories, and Hybrid.

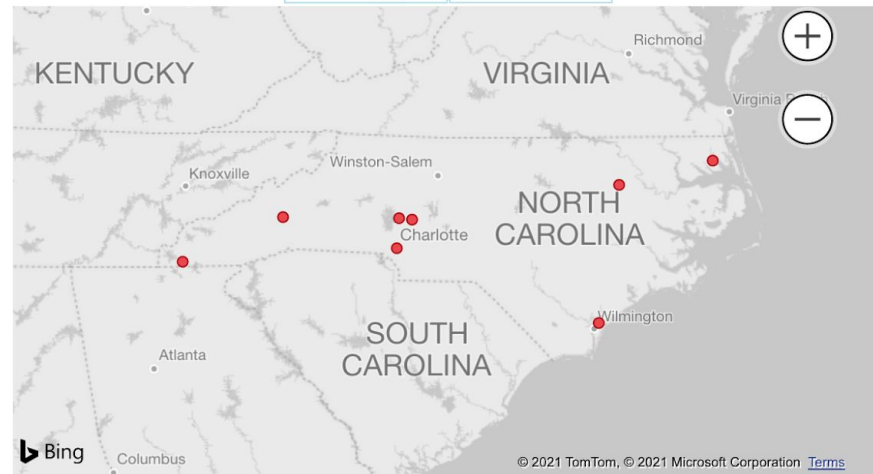


Schools  
**8**

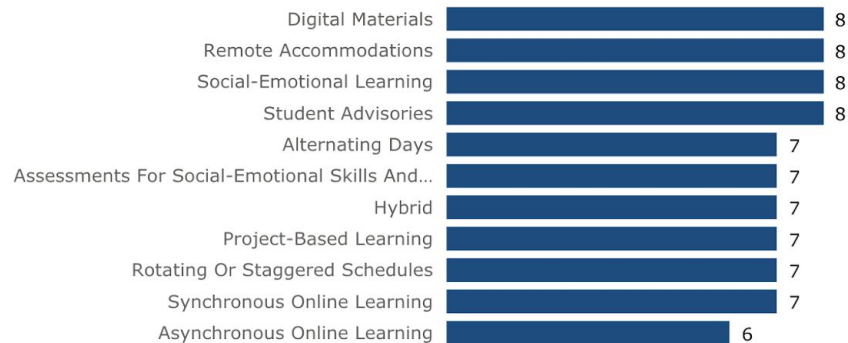
Nominators  
**8**

Expand Table →

School (website)	City	Nominator(s)	Core Practices
<a href="#">Charlotte Lab School</a>	Charlotte	Digital Learning Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Project-Based Learning</li> <li>▶ Expanded Measures of Success</li> <li>▶ Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>▶ Dual Language Programming</li> <li>▶ Reallocation of Resources for Those Most In Need</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Evergreen Community Charter School</a>	Asheville	National Center for Learning Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Social Justice Focus</li> <li>▶ Project-Based Learning</li> <li>▶ Social and Emotional Learning Integrated Across Academics</li> <li>▶ Real-World Problem Solving</li> <li>▶ Interdisciplinary</li> </ul>
<a href="#">North Edgecombe High School</a>	Tarboro	Anonymous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Practice of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy</li> <li>▶ Design Thinking Process</li> <li>▶ Student Advisories</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies</a>	Elizabeth City	Open Way Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Project-Based Learning</li> <li>▶ Portfolios and Public Exhibitions of Student Work</li> <li>▶ Design Thinking Process</li> <li>▶ Teachers as Co-Leaders</li> <li>▶ Families as Co-Leaders</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Park View Elementary</a>	Mooreville	Digital Learning Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Social-Emotional Learning</li> <li>▶ Reallocation of Resources for Those Most In Need</li> <li>▶ Blended Learning</li> <li>▶ Multiple Ways to Demonstrate Mastery</li> <li>▶ Rotating or Staggered Schedules</li> </ul>
<a href="#">South Rowan High School</a>	China Grove	Digital Learning Institute, The Friday Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Blended Learning</li> <li>▶ Student Advisories</li> <li>▶ Expanded Measures of Success</li> <li>▶ Competency/Mastery-Based Education</li> <li>▶ Interdisciplinary</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Southeast Area Technical High School (SEA-TECH)</a>	Castle Hayne	Open Way Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Project-Based Learning</li> <li>▶ Social-Emotional Learning</li> </ul>



### Most Common Self-Identified Practices (core and non-core)



# Visiting the schools to document their best practices and build a community of innovators

## Canopy Site Visits Planning Doc

### Schedule for Visits, 4-6 Hours:

Admin Opening

Classroom Visits

Focus Groups - Staff (6-8 Questions)

Focus Groups - Students (6-8 Questions)

Admin Closure

Site Visit Regroup \*15-20 minutes

School Level/Grade

Preschool	2nd Grade	5th Grade	8th Grade	11th Grade
Kindergarten	3rd Grade	6th Grade	9th Grade	12th Grade
1st Grade	4th Grade	7th Grade	10th Grade	Alternative Program

### Admin Questions:

1. How many students did this Best Practice impact? Is it Classroom, Schoolwide, or Districtwide?
2. Describe the situation before the practice was developed. Note reasons why improvements were needed.
3. How do they quantify or measure impact?

### Teacher Questions:

1. Approach - Describe how the practice aligns to the organization's goals, and how it aligns with students, parents, staff and the community.
2. Deployment - Describe the process used to develop the solution which became the Best Practice (or promising approach) and describe the implementation process. Include parental / stakeholder involvement and feedback.
3. Learning - Describe the tangible results achieved, including trends for summative

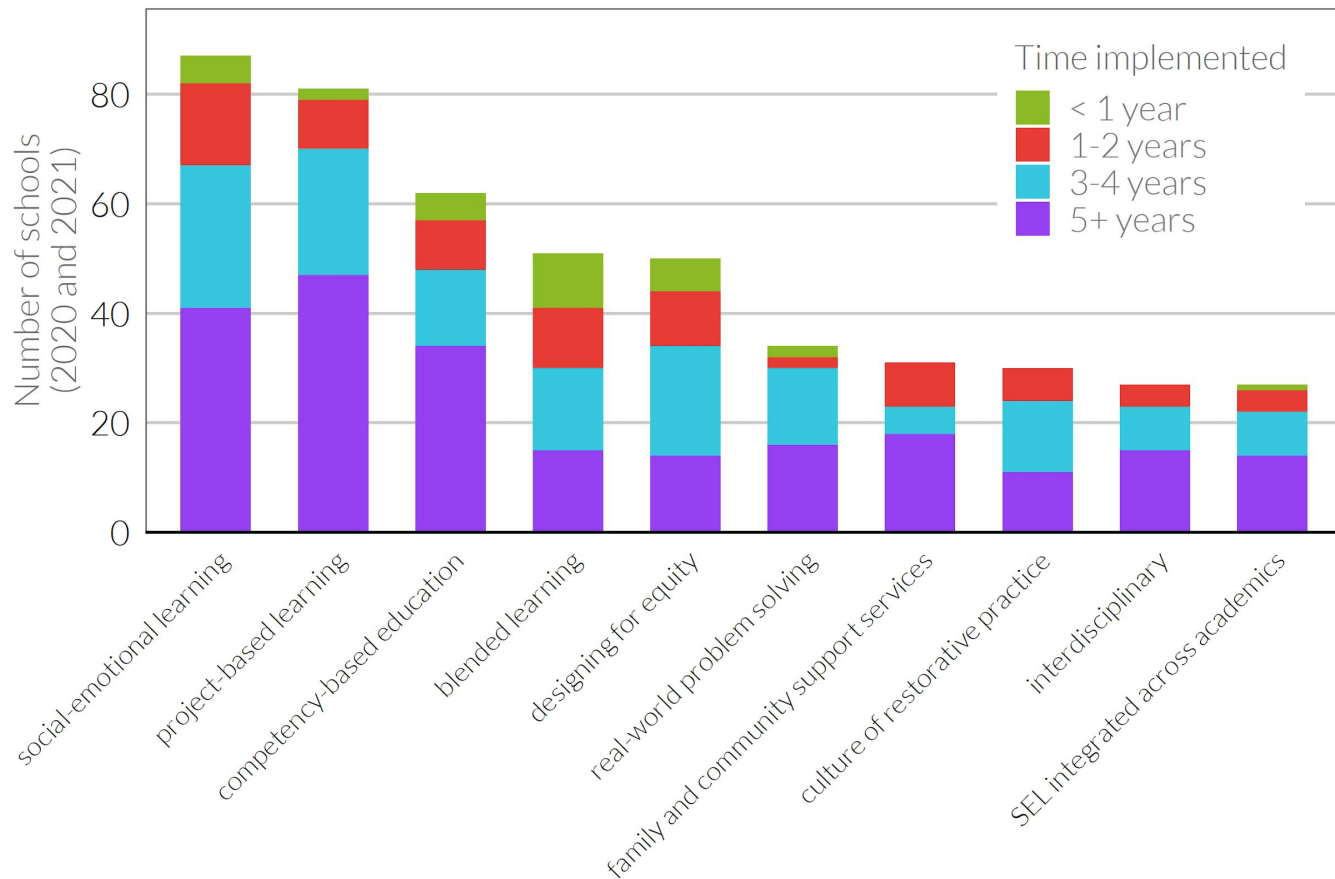
# Exploring the “forest” (i.e. field-wide trends) across 222 Canopy schools





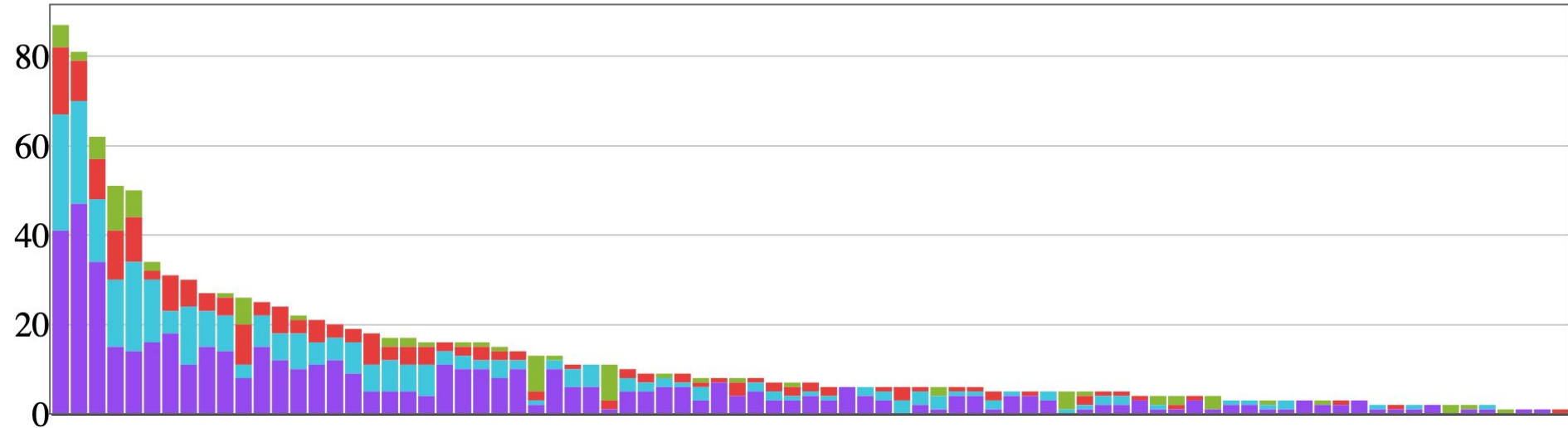
What's at  
the “core” of  
innovative  
school  
models?

## How long schools report implementing top 10 core practices



# But frequency can be deceiving

<http://bit.ly/3bogVIs>

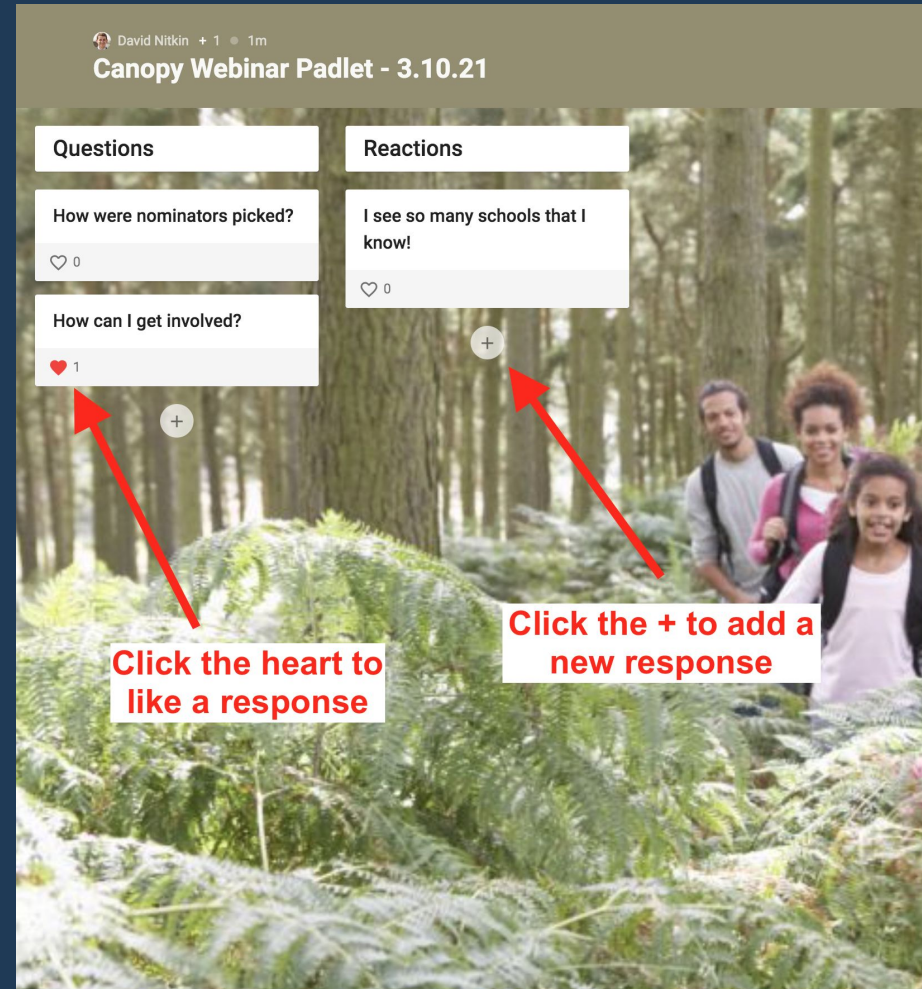


78 out of 91 tags were reported as “core”  
by at least one school

# Let's Discuss!

Jump into our [Padlet](#) to share questions and reactions.

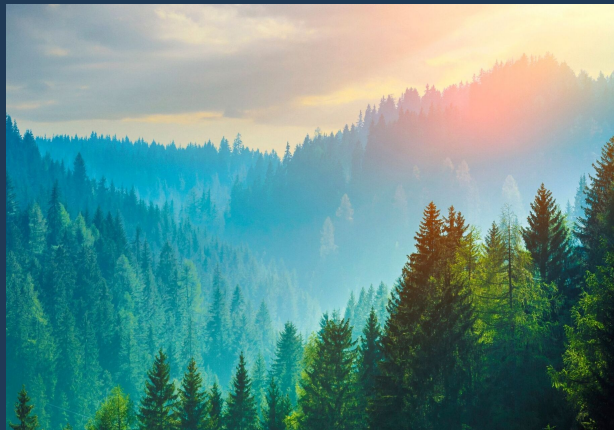
1. To add a new question or reaction, click the + sign at the bottom of each column
2. Read posts from others. If what they shared resonates, you can “like” it by clicking on the heart or respond with a comment
3. After 5 minutes, we'll have a Q&A session to respond to what you share





Q&A

# Join us to discuss...



Your view of the state of school  
innovation

**Breakout group 1**



How to use the Canopy data to find  
schools

**Breakout group 2**

**Option 3: Survey and fare thee well, fondly!**

One-minute survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Aurora\\_Webinar\\_3-10-21](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Aurora_Webinar_3-10-21)